



Media Release

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City of Temple Launches Five-Year Planning for Community Development Block Grant with Successful Community Engagement Event

(TEMPLE, TX) January 16, 2015 – The City of Temple is pleased to announce that January 13, 2015, was the inaugural community outreach event of the New Year. The Community Development program is designed to provide in-depth and personal opportunities for individuals, businesses, churches, civic and non-profit organizations to collaborate on the delivery of services and programs for low and moderate income residents. In 2015, this program will focus on relationship building with involved stakeholders, fair housing, Community Development Block Grant five year planning, outreach and education for homeowners, home repair & weatherization, and celebrating community-wide successes.

More than 50 people attended the event, held at Temple Public Library. Attendees included representatives from Citizens for Progress, Feed My Sheep, Heart of Central Texas Independent Living, Hill Country Community Action Association, Temple College Foundation, Temple Housing Authority, Temple Independent School District, and United Way of Central Texas; among others. Topics discussed included community clean-up programs such as the Team Up to Clean Up program and the new tool-trailer being coordinated by the City's Code Enforcement Department. Code Enforcement Manager, Joe Mudd, was on-hand and spoke of his department's wish to collaborate with residents on these issues. Mr. Mudd stressed the importance of communicating with the City and that in all things, he and his staff want to find reasonable solutions to issues around code enforcement. "This meeting was an exciting opportunity for multiple City departments to come together around shared goals. The overwhelmingly positive response from residents and organizations in attendance shows that when we work together, we can take great strides as a community."

Residents, City staff and community organizations also discussed and made plans for discovering solutions to the growing need for low income homeowner assistance with home repair issues. The City of Temple suffers from a disproportionate number of dilapidated houses, due in part to the age of the City. Other concerns are neighborhoods with a high concentration of low income families, seniors and other issues. The City of Temple fields dozens of calls a week from low income homeowners in need of assistance. This meeting symbolized the first step in working to find solutions to the larger scope of the problem. Several individuals and organizations indicated they have an interest in providing some sort of assistance with immediate needs such as: repaired roofs, doors and windows that keep the winter weather out, leak repair, handicap accessibility, and other minor issues that our low income neighbors struggle with every day.

Additionally, the City of Temple is the recipient of annual funding allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in the form of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). As part of the requirements established by HUD, the City submits a five-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans that outline goals and objectives identified by the community. The 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan is being drafted by the City between now and the end of July. Event attendees explored the new community survey that is available online from now through mid-March at www.templetx.gov/cdbg. Everyone that lives in Temple is actively encouraged to take the survey and to help shape CDBG programming over the coming five year period. Anyone that would like to request additional information, or would like to be added to our mailing list may contact the Department of General Services at 254-298-5609.

General Services Manager Ashley Williams, expressed her gratitude to the residents and partnering organizations for attending the meeting. She also expressed profound hope for the outcomes that these types of meetings engender; saying: “The representation from the community at the meeting was very encouraging as we look to broaden our community development efforts and compile our upcoming CDBG Consolidated Plan and Fair Housing Plan, which will impact our City over the next five years. This meeting was only the start of a conversation that will continue over the next five months and beyond. Turnout like this, ensures these efforts are successfully paired with community involvement and input. ”



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